GUIDE TO THE OZ11 PUKAPUKA FILE

[This file is concerned with the inhabitants of Pukapuka Atoll (also known as Danger Island), which lies about 390 miles northeast of Samoa. These people are Polynesians, speaking a Malayo-Polynesian language. The population is about 500, most of them grouped into a small area of one islet. The economy is based upon fishing and horticulture, with some copra being traded.

There are 12 sources in the Pukapuka file, all of which are in English. This total includes five manuscripts by Ernest and Pearl Beaglehole, who are the major authorities on the ethnography of the atoll, having spent a total of 7 1/2 months on the islands during 1934-1935. The basic source is 1:Beaglehole and Beaglehole, which is a general ethnography of the pre-missionary culture of these people (ca. 1850), with additional materials on the effect of White contact upon the culture. This effect has been strongest in the sphere of religion and least in the areas of economic life and material culture. 2:Macgregor is a brief description of the culture based on a stay of three days during 1933. The errors of fact in this publication were largely corrected in source 1:Beaglehole and Beaglehole. The remainder of the sources fill in areas not discussed in sources 1 and 2, with 11: Hutchin and 12: Gill offering some time depth to the file, but little else.

In general, this file is adequate for many cross-cultural purposes. However, the researcher should realize that the time focus varies considerably from source to source and within sources and this should be kept in mind when making comparisons. The file as a whole gives a good, brief picture of an isolated traditional Polynesian society. However, the religious aspects of the culture have been strongly affected by missionary efforts - the missionaries having kept Pukapukan contacts with the outside world to a minimum over a long period. Most of this file was processed before the introduction of the Outline of World Cultures and therefore the file pages generally lack the OWC alphanumeric codes. There were no special marking decisions for this file which was processed between 1953 and 1958.]